

Kindly replace claims 1, 2, and 12-15 as follows:

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1. (Twice Amended) A method of ligating a double-stranded end of a double-stranded DNA and a single-stranded end of another double-stranded DNA, wherein the method comprises:

- D1*
- a) contacting, in the presence of a homologous recombinant protein, the single-stranded end of said other double-stranded DNA and the double-stranded end of said double-stranded DNA, wherein said double-stranded DNA comprises a sequence that is homologous to the nucleotide sequence of said single-stranded end, to form a three-stranded structure comprising said single-stranded end and said double-stranded end, and
  - b) completing the ligation by converting the three-stranded structure into a double-stranded structure by inserting the DNA complex comprising the three-stranded structure into cells.

2. (Twice Amended) The method of ligation of claim 1, wherein said three-stranded DNA structural complex is a circular DNA complex having a three-stranded structure in two positions, wherein said three-stranded structure is made by either the ligation of:

- a) a double-stranded DNA comprising a single-stranded region at both ends,  
and

- D1*  
*cont.*
- b) a double-stranded DNA having at both ends a double-stranded region comprising sequences that are respectively homologous to said single-stranded nucleotide regions in a); or the ligation of:
  - c) a double-stranded DNA comprising a single-stranded region at one end and a double-stranded region at the other end, and
  - d) a double-stranded DNA comprising a double-stranded region at one end having a sequence that is homologous to the nucleotide sequence of said single-stranded nucleotide region in a) and a single-stranded region at the other end comprising a sequence that is homologous to the nucleotide sequence of the double-stranded nucleotide region in a).
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*D2*

12. (Twice Amended) The method of ligation of claim 1, wherein the insertion of the DNA complex comprising a three-stranded structure into cells is done by electroporation.

13. (Twice Amended) The method of ligation of claim 1, wherein the conversion of the three-stranded structure to a double-stranded structure is done by a nucleic acid modification enzyme.

14. (Twice Amended) The method of ligation of claim 1, wherein said method further comprises steps of converting the three-stranded structure into a double-